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Selden homestead  
Hadlyme  
NEW LONDON Middlesex County  
Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

District of Connecticut

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Harold H. Davis, District Officer  
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

THE SELDEN HOMESTEAD  
HADLYME, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CONN.  
Accession

Owner: Misses Elizabeth C. and Maria V. Selden

Date of Erection: 1770-75

Architect: Not known

Builder: Not Known

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one half stories

Materials of Construction:

Stone foundation  
Floors oak timbers &  
1"x1-0" oak finish floors  
Exterior walls oak planking  
1"x1-0" to 1-6" clapboards  
on exterior  
Roof oak framing  
1"x1-6" oak planking  
Wood shingle finish  
Chimney Stone-Brick top

Other Existing Records:

Colonial Dames of America  
Old Houses of Connecticut  
and Manuscript Copy.

List of Photographs:

1. East Elevation
2. Rear Elevation
3. Stair Detail
4. North Room Second Floor
5. Corner Cupboard

## THE SELDEN HOMESTEAD

## HADLYME, NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

On a broad plateau the north side of Selden Cove facing to the southwest lies the property known as the Selden Homestead. The present house is not the original Selden house which graced this land, but is the one built by Colonel Samuel Selden, probably between 1770 - 1775.

The first known Selden to America was Thomas Selden, who was one of the original settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, settling there about 1636 having come from Kent County, England. One of his sons, Joseph, after having resided in Hadley, Massachusetts for some time, returned to the Connecticut Valley and purchased a farm at the northern end of the town of Lyme in the parish which was subsequently called Hadlyme. It was his son, Colonel Samuel Selden, who was responsible for the architectural gem which now stands as the Selden Homestead.

Colonel Selden, the builder of the present structure, was a public spirited citizen, often representing Lyme in the Colony's General Assembly. He was active during the Revolutionary War being in charge of the Lyme forces. He joined Washington's forces in New York where he was taken prisoner by the British on September 15, 1776 and where he died on October 11th. of the same year. The remains of this ardent New England patriot were buried in the churchyard of the Brick Church of Presbyterians, at that time on Park Row opposite City Hall Park in New York City.

The old homestead has always been in the possession of the Selden family, the present owners being the Misses Elizabeth C. and Maria V. Selden.

The structure as it now stands consists of the two story and a half peak roofed main house, which is the one built by Colonel Selden, and the small gambrel roofed ell which is of an earlier style than the main portion. This ell, which shows evidence of separate construction and of its not being on its original site, may represent an earlier house built on this same property by Joseph Selden.

## The Selden Homestead

## HADLYME, NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

The exterior of the main portion of the house exemplifies a distinct type of Georgian architecture. It is very dignified with a central projecting porch with pediment over. It is interesting to note here that the front entrance is not original except in parts. This is evidenced by the amount of material found in the attic which represented the original details of the pediment of the doorway. By careful examination one can readily see the original location of the pediment. The porch, already mentioned, is flanked by quoins at each side of the front at the corners. The cornice is also interesting and the returns are graceful in their architectural execution. The windows are finely proportioned and have the traditional trim, and Georgian cornice at the head.

The interior is likewise well endowed with interesting features. Of note is the splendid panelling in the parlor. Details are excellent and show considerable study in its application. The interior of the fireplace is built of brick and has an interesting brick arch over the opening. The corner cupboard is very distinctive and rich in detail. In general the house is in a fine state of preservation and a tribute to the architectural culture of the Colonial period.

## Sources of information:-

Colonial Dames of America - Old houses of Connecticut  
(Manuscript copy)

Author:- *John F. Flanagan*

Approved: *Harold H. Davis* date: *Sept 35, 1940*